

19 September 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Downgrading of Material in Section 53 of NIS 42 (Thailand)

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1. At 1600 hours on 18 September a call was received from [redacted] of this Agency who advised that he was on active duty status with the Army assigned to psychological warfare work. He stated that the PsyWar people would like to use all of the information presented in paragraph 3 c. of Section 53 on NIS 42 in an unclassified document. This section deals with the political parties in Thailand under the 1947 coup group. He stated that PsyWar was extremely anxious to use this information immediately if authorization could be obtained to use it as mentioned above.

2. I took this up with Dan Clinton, State, who agreed to check into the matter immediately. Mr. Clinton called back early on the morning of 19 September and stated that the information in question could be used in an unclassified document if there were no indication of source, and if the paper was not one that would be taken as indicating the position of this Government. He said there were some statements in this subsection that represented State Department's opinion, but that these could not be stated in an unclassified paper as representing the views of this Government. These several statements in Paragraph 3 c. are as follows:

(4) ... "It was not a bona fide political association, however, and withered before intense party opposition."

(7) ... "Its 11 members were progovernment but opposed to the National Social Democrats."

(8) ... "In the February 1952 election its candidates in the Bangkok area won all six seats through block voting by army units."

(9) ... "After mid-1949, Nai Tiang Sirikhan, representative from Sakon Nakhon, gradually built up a following in the Assembly from remnants of the Cooperative Party of Pridi Phanomyong, and from dissident People's (Prachachon) members, and called it the United Thai (Sahathai) Party."

3. Mr. Clinton said that he would send a confirming memorandum covering the authorization to use this material in an unclassified document under conditions stated above.

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4. I advised [REDACTED] of this by phone, and he said that he would advise the PsyWar people accordingly. He stated that he would make it clear to them that under no circumstances could the information be used except under the conditions imposed by State.

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[REDACTED]